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article is illustrated with a portrait of Mr. Druery and pictures of some products of his skill in fern culture.

In this connection the note appearing on another page will be of especial interest. It was sent as a letter to Mr. Winslow.

#### AN UNUSUAL STATION FOR BOTRYCHIMUM LANCEOLATUM

On the 2d of last July Mr. C. H. Bissell, Mr. C. A. Weatherby and the writer explored a gorge on the farm of Mr. Homer J. Heath, in the northern part of the township of Newfane, Vt. In the woods above the gorge we found a remarkable growth of *Botrychium lanceolatum*. During the half-hour or so that we were traversing this piece of woods we came upon groups of from three to twenty plants every few steps. There must have been thousands of them. *Botrychium ramosum* was also present, but in smaller number.

The writer has seen this plant growing in several localities in western Connecticut and Massachusetts, and eastern and northern Vermont, but always in rather moist rich woods, and often in quite swampy ground. The Newfane station is a rather dry and very steep wooded hillside with a northeasterly slope and an elevation, according to estimates furnished by Mr. L. A. Wheeler, of Townshend, Vt., of about 800 feet above sea level and more than 200 feet above the neighboring river.

AUBURNDALE, MASS.

E. J. WINSLOW.

#### A CORRECTION

In the interests of accuracy, permit me to call your attention to an erroneous statement in your April number. Mr. James A. Bates writes: "I think it was Clute who made the mistake in an early Bulletin of calling *Dicksonia* the fragrant fern." If Mr. Bates

will consult Fern Bulletin, Volume 4, page 48, and the same publication Volume 5, page 15, he will discover that *Dicksonia* was mistaken for the fragrant fern but not by Clute. The man who made the mistake and who listed the *Dicksonia* under the name of a rarer fern in a well known State flora was a much more prominent botanist. It was Clute who first pointed out the error. We have always been taught that New Englanders are committed to plain living and high thinking, but it is apparent that the last mentioned process sometimes slips a cog. The matter of the *Dicksonia* is not of much consequence, yet we feel that we ought to stop this careless kind of thinking at the outset; otherwise, some other misguided fern student may inform the public that he thinks that Clute was the first one to mistake carrots for ferns. Up to the present, however, we have been able to prove an alibi; in fact we have laid in quite a stock of alibis in anticipation of having use for them when the thinking in New England gets to running smoothly.

WILLARD N. CLUTE.

### HYBRIDS IN Equisetum?

In an article entitled "Anatomy as a means of diagnosis of spontaneous plant hybrids" (Science, N. S. 38: 932, 26 Dec 1913), Miss Ruth Holden discusses evidence indicating that plants may be hybrids without showing intermediate external characters. In such cases a study of their anatomy will serve to reveal their real relationships.

For example, a birch growing at the Arnold Arboretum which had been identified as *Betula pumila* was found to possess wood characters entirely different from those of *B. pumila* together with peculiarities of stamen structure with nearly abortive pollen. These facts, together with